

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12, 17-25, 27, 30-38, and 40 remain in the application and claims 1, 17, and 30 have been amended hereby. Claims 11, 26, and 39 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 13-16, 28, and 29 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants elect hereby to prosecute invention I, claims 1-12, 17-27, and 30-40.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 11, 12, 17, 26-27, 30, 39, and 40 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Fujimoto.

A feature of the information distribution system according to the present invention is that prepaid information (Fig. 8) is recorded in a recording medium (4 in Fig. 1) in an unrewritable manner. See page 30, lines 17-19 of the present application, for example.

An advantage of this feature of the present invention is that the prepaid information of the recording medium cannot be tampered with. See page 64, lines 1-3 of the present application, for example.

Independent claims 1, 17, and 30 have been amended to recite this feature of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that Fujimoto fails to show or suggest that prepaid information is recorded in a

recording medium in an unrewritable manner. Fujimoto clearly teaches that the recording medium is rewritable and that the accounting data is recorded thereon in a rewritable manner. See col. 3, lines 4-9 and col. 16, lines 29-33 of Fujimoto.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 17, and 30, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Fujimoto.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 18, and 31 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Fujimoto in view of Akiyama et al.

Claims 2 and 3, 18, and 31 depend from claims 1, 17, and 30, respectively, which rejection over Fujimoto has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Akiyama et al. that somehow could be combined with Fujimoto and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 18, and 31 are patentably distinct over Fujimoto in view of Akiyama et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 4-10, 19-25, and 32-38 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Fujimoto in view of Akiyama et al. and Inoue et al.

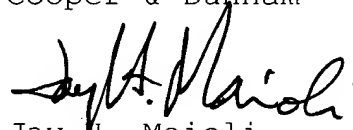
Claims 4-10, 19-25, and 32-38 depend from claims 1,

17, and 30, respectively, with rejection over Fujimoto has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Akiyama et al. and Inoue et al. that somehow could be combined with Fujimoto and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-10, 19-25, and 32-38 are patentably distinct over Fujimoto in view of Akiyama et al. and Inoue et al.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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